hilly areas of States like Rajasthan and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRJ DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has been monitoring on daily, basis the retail prices of 12 essential commodities namely, rice, wheat gram, arhar, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, sugar, tea, salt, onions and potatoes at 18 selected centres. On the basis of the available statistics, a marginal variation has been observed in the prices of only a few items due to onset of their lean supply season, gap between the demand and their supply in the country, transportation bottlenecks due to heavy rains and floods and rise in the cost of their inputs. With a view to keeping the prices of essential commodities under check, the Public Distribution System is being strengthened to provide foodgrains at cheaper rates to the poor strata of the society. Besides, stringent actions are being taken against the speculators, hoarders and traders indulging in unfair trade practices. The essential commodities are also being supplied through Cooperatives Stores, Mobile Stores, Kendriya Bhandar etc. at reasonable prices. Essential Commodities like pulses and edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market.

क्या मध्य प्रदेश में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के लिए छात्रावास

200. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित जनजातियों के छात्रावासों में आवश्यक साज-सामानों की पूर्ति और उनकी स्थिति में सुधार हेतु विशेष कार्य योजना के अंतर्गत वर्ष 1994-95 और 1995-96 में कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई;

(ख) इसी अवधि में इसी कार्य के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई;

(ग) इस राशि में से प्रति वर्ष कितनी धनराशि छात्रावासों एवं आश्रम भवनों की मरम्मत और कितनी राशि उनमें आवश्यक सामग्रियों को उपलब्ध कराने हेतु व्यय की गई; और

(घ) इस विशेष कार्य योजना के पश्चात् भी आवश्यक साजसामानों एवं मरम्मत से वंचित छात्रावासों और आश्रमों की जिला-वार संख्या कितनी है और इसके लिए कितनी धनराशि की आवश्यकता है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया): (क) अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए होस्टलों/आश्रम स्कूलों की अनुरक्षण लागत का खर्च संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा वहन किया जाता है। भारत सरकार होस्टलों/आश्रम स्कूलों भवनों के निर्माण के लिए ही राज्य को अनुदान देती है।

(ख) से (घ) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से सूचना देने का अनुरोध किया गया है जिसे प्राप्त होने पर सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।

Revamping of KVIC

201. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INDUS TRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measure to revamp the working of Khadi & Village Industries Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. However, on the other hand, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) had commissioned the Indian Institute of Public Administration(IIPA) for undertaking a study on restructuring of the KVIC.

(b) The IIPA has since submitted its recommendations on the subject which are being examined by the KVIC.

National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation

202. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a National Handicapped Finance and Development

Corporation with equity participation of both Centre and State;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was mooted during the Welfare Minister's Conference held in 1996;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined the proposal; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Government has decided to set up the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to promote economic developmental activities, self employment and other ventures for the benefit/economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons with an authorised share capital of Rs. 400 crores (Rupees Four Hundred Crores only) divided into 40 lakhs (Forty Lakhs) equity share of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) each. The paid-up capital would be Rs. 200 crores. The entire equity will be held by Government of India, to begin with.

(b) to (d) The decision to set up the Corporation had already been taken prior to the meeting of the State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996. However, it was recommended by the State Ministers of Welfare that National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation may be set up most expeditiously with equity participation of both Central and State Governments. It will give loans to persons with disabilities for undertaking self-employment projects, pursuing higher/ technical education etc. with a view to bring them into the mainstream of economic activity. Efforts are being made to operationalise the Corporation as early as possible.

Expert Committee on Tobacco

203. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Central Trade Unions on the need to form a separate Expert Committee on Tobacco; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received in this Ministry from the Indian National Trade Union Congress and other Central Trade Unions suggesting constitution of a seperatc Expert Committee or Working Group or an Internal Reveiw Committee to consider the fallout on employment of the proposed legislation by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have appointed an Expert Committee to go into the different aspects of tobacco use including employment aspect and decided to provide an opportunity among others to the representatives of Trade Unions and Employers of beedi workers to formulate their views singly or jointly and place them before the Deputy Director General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who is one of the members of the Expert Committee for bringing the same to the notice of the Government. The Central Trade Unions have accordingly been informed.

भारतीय उद्योग का विकास

204. श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या एक अध्ययन के अनुसार 1994-95 के दौरान भारतीय उद्योग के विकास में 8.4 प्रतिशत वृद्धि तथा चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के प्रथम पांच महीनों के दौरान 14.2 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक संतोषप्रद वृद्धि के बावजूद भारतीय उद्योग का विकास 1980 के दशक की तुलना में असंतोषजनक रहा है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके मुख्य कारण क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन तथ्यों की जानकारी औद्योगिक उत्पादन के सूचकांक के अध्ययन से हुई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) वर्ष 1996 के प्रथम छः महीनों के दौरान औद्योगिक विकास की स्थिति क्या रही है;